

1 filed Surveillance

Senate panel holds vast 'subversives' file amassed by ex-chief of Army Intelligence
by Richard Halloran

[Story, datelined Washington, deals with "a secret collection of reports on 125,000 allegedly subversive persons and organizations ... known to insiders here as the Van Deman files ... assembled - with official knowledge and help - by ... Maj. Gen. Ralph H. Van Deman, between 1929, the year of his retirement, and 1952, the year of his death."]

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The heart of the Van Deman files, according to military sources who have seen them, comprises confidential intelligence reports that General Van Deman obtained regularly from Army and Naval intelligence and from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also received information from California police agencies at his home in San Diego.

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An Army memorandum written after an inspection of the files last winter said ... "The number of F.B.I. summaries, reports and photographs indicates that he could upon request obtain information from the bureau."

A spokesman for the F.B.I. contended, however, that those reports could not have come directly from the bureau, which, he said, does not give out information to unauthorized persons.

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The Army inspection of the files ... indicated that some of his reports had been lent to the Army and the F.B.I. A spokesman for the F.B.I. acknowledged that the bureau had borrowed Van Deman reports and said that this was proper, since a citizen had an obligation to report information he thought might be useful to the bureau.

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